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& Corrections



Representative Steve Kirby

29th District

Spring 2006

Dear Neighbor:

Okay. You can let go of your wallets now. The legislative session is over. Actually, it turned out to be a pretty successful year.

We managed to keep the trains running on time **without raising taxes**. And we even put away almost a billion dollars for the next time our revenues come up short. We invested in **education**, increased access to **health care**, improved our state's **economy**, and maintained our **quality of life**.

It was a bad year for sex offenders who prey on children. We took some of the **toughest** sex offender laws in the country and made them **tougher** by imposing a 25-year-to-life sentence for the most serious sex offenses. We considered a great many bills on this one issue. In the end, I believe we passed the best bill that will **charge and convict** more sex offenders, **protect** more victims, and keep more children **safe**.

Remember the dueling initiatives on **medical malpractice** insurance reform last fall? It seemed like you couldn't turn your TV on without hearing doctors and lawyers calling each other names. After the defeat of both ballot measures, the Legislature approved a groundbreaking compromise that **saves lives** by reducing medical errors, **lowers premiums** for doctors, and **reforms** our civil liability system.

I prime-sponsored 43 bills during the last biennium. Most of them pertained to **consumer protection** and regulation of the banking and insurance industries in our state. As chairman of the House Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee, it's my job to work with our state regulators to ensure consumers aren't getting **ripped off** by these very powerful **interest groups**. That's a tall order, but I think we made some good progress.

During the legislative interim, I'll be working on bills to help prevent **identity theft**, regulate **payday lenders**, limit the use of **credit scoring** by insurance companies in calculating premiums, and prevent insurance companies from having access to our **DNA**. I'll also keep working to prevent Pierce County from being the **dumping ground** for sex offenders and other criminals from all over the state.

I'll keep you posted as things progress toward next year's session.

Best wishes,

Steve Kirby
State Representative
29th District

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29th District**



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